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WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8, 1915.

ALWAYS THE SUGAR COAT?

Washington gathers the impression that our considerate Administration will try to make it just as easy as possible for Ambassador Dumba to get out of this country. It is reported that our ambassador at Vienna will be sent copies of all the documents that were taken away from Dumba's special messenger, Archibald, with a suggestion that the United States feels surprised—maybe, too, a bit hurt—that that sort of conspiracy should be engineered in the United States by the ambassador of a friendly power and apparently under the direct orders of that supposedly friendly power. But, it is avouched, there will likely be no demand for the recall of Dumba; it will delicately be left to the good taste of Vienna to realize that it can do no less than recall him and disavow its part in the munitions strike plan.

Precisely why, in our relations with Germany and Austria, so much of consideration, delicacy, and regard for the finer diplomatic sensibilities must always be displayed is not very apparent. All the circumstances of this Dumba affair point the need for more vigorous action. It is not enough to let Austria disavow and discredit Dumba. The only offense he committed against the Government he represented was in getting caught. His government ought not particularly to blame him for that. It should not disgrace him before his own country, for he has served it in the way it wanted to be served.

To let Austria recall Dumba, in short, involves no rebuke to Vienna by our Government. That rebuke should be administered. It can be administered by handing Dumba his passports. It is less than self-respecting for our Government to permit the diplomatic assumption that Dumba acted without the general authority of his country.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION

The draft of a new constitution for the State of New York comes out of the wash of the convention with more of promise than it went in. There was grave misgiving in the earlier periods of the convention's activities whether it would get into touch and sympathy with the prevailing sentiments of the Empire State community. With such reservations as must be made because of the need for detailed consideration of such a document, it seems safe now to say that the convention has done a better piece of work even than seemed probable when its sittings began, and one that is likely to appeal to the voters of the State.

If the provisions looking to home rule of cities are not so complete and satisfactory as could be wished, it may be remembered that the cities nowadays do not need reform so much as does the State. The short ballot proposal is in a form which insures great betterment of the State government, and betterment of the State means improved conditions for the cities, because latterly the legislature has been the greatest obstacle to advance in city conditions. It may be said, in short, that the State stands to gain more than the cities; but that the State needed more.

Under such casual examination as has thus far been possible, the proposed constitution gives the impression of being a very gratifying adjustment between all extremes. There may be discovery of some extraordinary defect to justify fears of it, but thus far the product of the convention's deliberations looks good. The short ballot plan that has been written into it in a fashion highly significant of the sentiment of these times is alone enough to decide a great proportion of voters in favor of the new charter.

Americans are leaders in the business of making charters of rights and restrictions within which they will agree to live. The federated governmental systems of the world, from Switzerland to Australasia, South Africa, and China, are chiefly based on the immortal if doubtless imperfect scheme framed by the Philadelphia convention. Our Federal charter provides a clumsy method of amendment, so difficult that carping critics, after waiting a generation to see a single change in it, had begun to muckraker the venerable document with the accusation that it couldn't be changed at all. But that charge fell in confusion before the refutation that was carried when the amendments were promptly adopted for popular election of Senators and the income tax. It was made clear that the

public could have its way when it was decided which way it wanted.

State constitutions have been the subject of much criticism, albeit there is a curious similarity among all of them save the few of very recent origin, upon which have been engrafted testimonies to the new radicalism that chooses to try experiments that promise amusement, perhaps edification.

When New York confronted its constitutional convention there were more than a few who feared that it might become either a dangerously radical or a grievously conservative affair, with the preponderance of misgiving leaning toward the latter view. But the product of the Albany gathering cannot be regarded as sustaining either thesis. It is a sane, sound, middle-of-the-road instrument that represents just about the measure of progress that the digested opinions of the community have warranted. It comes out of a convention in which a large number of able and very earnest men met together. There is good reason to hope that it will mark a forward move in the development of American government.

ON THE RIO GRANDE

The events on the Rio Grande, where American troops have been fighting a battle with Mexican raiders, constitute an illustration of what might happen on a much larger scale at any moment in our relations with the neighbor to the south.

After diplomacy has done its best—or its worst; after the merits of contending leaders have been estimated and docketed in appropriate pigeonholes, comes a startling demonstration of lawlessness and hate which sweeps away in one violent movement all the verbiage of diplomats and confronts the people of the United States with a problem involving the future peace of the continent.

Brigandage has become a habit in Mexico. It has been the ultimate recourse of a large share of the people through centuries of exploitation, since Spanish rapacity robbed the Incas of their lands and treasure. It is the protest of the disinherited against a system of spoliation which began with Cortez, reached its highest efficiency under Diaz, and has degenerated into petty larceny under Carranza, Villa, and their henchmen.

Another phase of the perennial Mexican problem is the violent hatred of America and Americans. This instinctive and growing animosity has been apparent for years to any observant American who has traveled in Mexico or lived in it.

The propensity for loot and the hatred of Americans are the two primal passions which have combined to produce the Brownsville incident. The incident and its causes are well worth the earnest consideration of American statesmanship.

FLOODING US WITH GOLD

In a little over a month about \$180,000,000 in gold and securities has been shipped from England to this country. The newest movement, of \$65,000,000 in gold, mainly coin, is without doubt the greatest shipment of the yellow metal ever made across the waters. It all raises the question, What does the British financial authority intend to accomplish by this unexpected volume of gold exports?

Not unlikely there is an element of bravado in it. A year ago now the United States was sending gold to Europe, and doing it with exceeding bad grace. The tide turned; our floating debt abroad was discharged; our foreign-owned securities came in considerable quantities; gold was started flowing in this direction; and still it was impossible to cancel the balance to our credit. Foreign exchange went up and still up. Now is recorded a single gold shipment of \$65,000,000, and yet the parity of exchange is not restored, and American financial authorities begin to fear that they will have a dangerously large amount of gold, precisely as a year ago they feared a dangerously small amount might be left to them.

The foreign governments and bankers doubtless know exactly what they are doing. It is the strategy of finance, quite as interesting as that of the battlefield. The allies, let it be assumed, want to sell a billion dollars of securities in this country. They want to get the best possible terms for them. What more effective way than to stock up this country with gold, until American financiers become afraid of it, afraid of a great inflation and a period of unbridled speculation, and then offering to save us from submergence under the yellow tide by selling us bonds!

Many weeks ago the Federal Reserve Board at Washington and careful bankers in New York and other centers began expressing fears of a too great gold movement thither, with consequent inflation. The movement has now assumed proportions never before dreamed. Seemingly the allied nations are bent on proving to us that they can swamp us with gold, if gold we must have—getting ready to offer us their bonds, but only when we shall have become so fearful of getting more

gold that we will consider it a favor to be allowed to snap up a war loan!

War finance is showing us a good many things that people didn't commonly understand before. One is that while gold is a good thing to have, it is about as bad for a country to have too much as to have too little of it. If we get all the gold we will be in the position of the merchant with his shelves full of goods, but neither scales nor yardsticks by which to measure.

THE CASUALTY LISTS

It has been demonstrated repeatedly, by the process of the reduction ad absurdum, that if the casualty lists of Europe's battlefields were of anything like the proportions attributed to them, the armies would some time ago have been wiped out. Particularly would the Russians now all be dead or prisoners; whereas, in fact, they seem actually to have pulled themselves together and made something like a stand against the Teutons in some sections of the line. Some detailed facts about the war casualties have been published in France, on the basis of official reports, which explain away much of the discrepancy. It is stated that 54.5 per cent of the French army's wounded return immediately to the fighting line; 25.4 per cent recover after a period of treatment and convalescence; only 3.48 per cent die as a result of their wounds.

These figures are worth attention in connection with the stories that have come repeatedly from the fighting zone of individual soldiers who have been repeatedly wounded so seriously that they had to retire from the line, but who on each occasion got back to the front as soon as they were sufficiently recovered. One soldier who has a record of four or five appearances in the list of casualties, but who is still at the front, a seasoned veteran, with nothing worse than an array of scars to tell of his mishaps, may be multiplied by the very large number of like cases; and the product doubtless would make up several army divisions of men whom the statisticians have put out of service, but who today are on the fighting line, better soldiers than they were at the beginning.

TENNIS

Tennis, oldest of all existing ball games, considered by many the forerunner of the great American pastime, baseball; erstwhile sport of kings, again is coming to its own. The recurrent popularity of tennis is indicated by the wide interest in the defeat of Maurice McLaughlin by the twenty-year-old California star, William M. Johnston.

But the real test of the interest in tennis, unlike that in baseball, is in the number of those who play it. More tennis players have been in evidence this year in the District, and followers of the sport through its lean and fat days say there are five times as many courts here now as there were five years ago.

To those who play it the question of McLaughlin will be no surprise. The game is pre-eminently one for youth, and there have been few Honus Wagners of the court. "Leg work" is needed to sustain judgment, and the best of the youthful players take their place on the golf links long before the baseball player thinks he has reached his prime. For this reason the sport is not likely ever to be one that has a wide following of spectators. Its stars fade so soon that the stardom is hardly worth the persistence needed for a few short years to attain it. But as a community sport it is growing in popularity, and there is no more healthful sign of the spreading interest in outdoor life than the municipal courts and the private courts that appear on every street.

It seems to be either redress or war dress.

Carranza's refusal to treat with Villa is a surprise to Huerta, who never refused one. Strange, but the voice of the American people is quite a linguist. And now for the political Luther Burbanks who will hand 'em lemons resembling plums.

Three more husky battles, and King Alfonso will be in a position to dictate terms. Looks like the faculty has elected the Dardanelles to the chair of Totttering left vacant by Senor Huerta.

And still, old Joe Cannon refuses to admit that time has grabbed him by the forelock.

Britain Ready to Confer On U. S. Goods' Release

Ambassador Page has cabled from London that Great Britain is prepared to accept informal representations by the foreign trade advisers of the State Department, as a medium whereby release can be secured of American-owned goods of German and Austrian origin now held up at neutral ports.

This will result in the trade advisers resuming negotiations which have been interrupted since June 15, by the British refusal to consider further applications for special permits under the order in council.

DIVER COMPUTES ENORMOUS WAR COST

Tennessee Lecturer Says Conflict to Date Has Wasted \$46,000,000,000.

The European war has cost to date more than \$46,000,000,000, according to figures compiled by the Rev. Dr. J. Henry Smythe, the Tennessee divine, who proudly claims to have preached before every President from Lincoln to Taft, and who said in Washington today that he had prophesied the war nearly three years ago.

Dr. Smythe, who is a lecturer, author, and chancellor of the American University of Tennessee, talked today of the stupendous cost of the European conflict, saying that "the first year's cost of the war would pay the national debts of all the countries in the world at the time of the war's outbreak."

Here's His Prophecy. Two years ago, while preaching in Nashville, Dr. Smythe said he made the following prophecy after speaking of the horrors of the Napoleonic wars: "If you will stand with me tonight at the hinges of history and look along the sky line of current events, you will see the same thing over and over again. Aerial Europe and every way that breaks upon the shore is red with blood. The thin and Port Arthur have been the shifting scenery, moved by the hidden hand of God, in the awful and unending tragedy of time."

Using commonplace illustrations to convey to the startled mind a conception of the cost of the war, he said August 1, 1915, Dr. Smythe said today:

"From figures I have compiled the estimated cost of the war up to the first of August was \$17,000,000,000. Other known losses will mount to make the grand total \$46,000,000,000. It is a fact that the cost of the war in the world, if this sum were measured out in \$20 gold pieces and they were placed side by side on the railway tracks, each rail, they would cover with gold every line from New York to the Pacific Ocean, the two Canadian lines included."

Some Other Comparisons. "There would be enough gold left over to cover each rail of the railroad from Vladivostok to Petrograd. There would still remain sufficient to rehabilitate Belgium and to buy the whole of Turkey at her own valuation."

"It may be figured another way. The average working man in this country earns \$15 a year. It would take ninety million years of work to pay the cost of the war up to date, or ninety million American laborers would pay it off in one year if their living expenses were put aside."

"The cost of a year of the great war is a little more than the estimated cost of the entire property of the United States west of the Mississippi. It is nearly equal to the total value of all the property in Germany and the whole Russian empire could have been bought for a less sum."

"If all the farms, factories, and farmhouses of the United States were wiped out of existence, the cost of this war would more than replace them. If the whole Russian empire could have been bought for a less sum, it would be less than that involved in the war up to date, and such an elemental question as the cost of the war is not a costly legacy of hate."

MAIL BAG (From The Times' Readers.)

Communications to the Mail Bag must be written on the left side of the paper only. Must not exceed 200 words in length, and must be signed. The publication of letters in The Times' Mail Bag does not imply the endorsement of the opinions of the writer. The Mail Bag is an open forum, where the official Washington can argue most questions.

Says Most Lynching Is Done In So-called "Dry" States.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: The letter of "Reader of The Times," published September 3, says that lynching is the creation of drunken and illiterate men. Now stop and think. "Reader of The Times" isn't most of the lynching done in our so-called "Dry" States? A CONSTANT READER. Washington, September 7.

Takes Issue With An Expert On City Traffic Regulations.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: I am compelled, from a humanitarian and safety standpoint, to take issue with W. E. Eno, expert on city traffic regulations. Mr. Eno suggests, as I get it, is twenty miles an hour in cities, and thirty miles an hour in the country, and that a car should be able to make a trip from the District line through the city to the other end, and back, in one hour. That is a starting point, turn about and go back to the other end again, and then either have time for a smoke, or else speed on the return trip back two miles. Does Mr. Eno know that such speed is in excess of allowed? Let me quote rules from a Western time table, and let the speed of the automobile passenger train speed for automobiles out in the country, and a faster speed in the city. That is not an undue strain. Rule: Passenger train shall not exceed twenty-five miles an hour on a straight line, and freight trains not faster than fifteen miles an hour on a straight line.

These trains are equipped with automatic brakes to act on all cars, and hydraulic cylinder brakes for locomotive drivers, which means that they are equipped 50 per cent better for stopping than automobiles. My contention is that the speed ought not to be increased at present, is more in conformity with safety, not only for the automobiles, but for the passengers and passengers in automobiles.

There are too many daily automobile wrecks, and too many lives are being lost, and too many persons are crippled and killed. Only last night's bowling over of a seventy-year-old man at Union Station is sufficient proof that we have reckless drivers of automobiles in Washington. FRED C. SWARTZ. Washington, Sept. 7.

Woman Senator Alleges Newspaper Libeled Her

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 8.—Through her attorney, Arthur T. Vandenberg, Senator Helen Robinson of Colorado has started suit against the Summit, N. J., Herald for alleged libel.

One Year Ago Today in the War

Staggered by the desperate resistance of the allies near Paris, the Germans were forced to yield one year ago, today, September 8, their right wing falling back ten miles. Despite their victories along the Marne and the retreat of the Kaiser's troops, the defenders of Paris were still in a critical position at the end of the day's fighting.

In the eastern theater of combat the Czar continued his aggressive sweep, taking two forts southwest of Lemberg. Only Przemyśl and Jaroslau, on the River San, and Cracow, on the Vistula river, were left for the Austrians as serious obstacles to the Russian advance.

Invasion of Bosnia was started, marking a new offensive movement by the Serbians.

Japan joined in agreement with Great Britain, France, and Russia not to conclude peace separately.

Attractions Coming to Capital Theaters

The inauguration of the Belasco fall and winter season will take place next Monday night, when "The Only Girl" will be the attraction, under the management of Joe Weber. It was this manager who felt assured that the combination of Henry Blossom, librettist, and Victor Herbert, composer, could not possibly fail, and "The Only Girl" ran the entire season in New York, for a time at the Thirtieth Street Theater, and later at the Lyric.

The story concerns a young man about town who is an author of comic operas and who is a loser for a considerable time. He is a woman hater. He accidentally finds just the person he believes will write the music to his play, but, unfortunately, this person is a woman, and he is a woman hater. Manager Weber promises a splendid production of "The Only Girl," and has engaged a cast that includes Edna Murray, Leona Stevens, Elsie Baird, Genevieve Houghton, Regina Richards, Janet McIlwaine, Franklin Farnum, Russell Lennon, Frank Combs, Alfred Fisher, and Tom Burton. Victor Herbert will conduct the orchestra at the opening performance.

Gertrude Hoffmann in "Sumurun," the wordless spectacle with music, with a company of these actors, with a special symphony orchestra led by Max Hoffmann will be the offering heading the Keith Theater bill next week. "Sumurun" is the famous Max Reinhardt wordless play. It was staged by Miss Hoffmann and Richard Ordynski, a pupil of Reinhardt. It is in eight scenes and lasts for one hour. It is a story of the "Flower Way," with its bright over the footlights and orchestra; the Harem Bath, and other Oriental stage pictures.

The supplementary bill includes William Minter's "Ships That Pass in the Night," the Melville, formerly of the Lyric, and Higgins; Chauncey Monroe and company in "A Business Proposal"; the Misses Lightner and Newton; and the "Jolly Trip," "Bunny and Bert," "The Winkles Erasers," and the Pathe news pictorial.

Next Sunday the concerts at 3 and 8:15 p. m. at Keith's, the bill will present this week's stars.

Rupert Hughes' clever comedy, "Excuse Me," which had its first performance on any stage in Washington, will be the offering of the Poli Players next week. General Manager Thatcher has purchased from Henry J. Savage the entire original scenic production, so that the Pullman car force will be presented on the Poli stage exactly as it was originally.

"Excuse Me" tells of the adventures of a company of travelers on their way from Chicago to San Francisco. The bandstand includes a young army lieutenant and his bride-to-be; a drolorous traveling salesman, who does not like his wife; a man on board en route to Reno to get a divorce; a man-hater and a woman-hater, an old clem-hater and the colored Pullman porter.

Headed by Billy Watson, the attraction billed for next week at the Gayety should be one of the best performances to be seen at this playhouse this season. Watson, who has established a reputation as an entertainer and his show, known as "The Beef Trust," carries a large and well-acted story of a man who is forced to the ability to sing and dance in a fetching manner.

A ride from Billy Watson, who will be seen in the principal comedy roles of the two burlesques, "Krausmeyer's Alley" and "The Bashful Venus," the

ALFONSO PREDICTS BIGGER ARMAMENTS WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

PARIS, Sept. 8.—King Alfonso of Spain believes that all nations will arm more than ever after the present war. The Spanish monarch, he is quoted today by Paris newspapers, which printed an interview with the King, obtained by an Argentine newspaper man.

King Alfonso cited the case of Belgium, whose neutrality, he said, had been pledged her by greater powers, but who had been forced to rely on her arms for defense. All countries, he said, will find it necessary to prepare for war in order to insure themselves against unjust aggressions.

He anticipated no serious objection from the Socialists in the future, he said, because ideas of the Socialists that are just as being adopted by governments, and the Socialists themselves are discovering they had been deceived in certain of their ideas.

The King expressed regret that the war had made it necessary for him to set aside plans to visit America, at least for several years.

He would play an important role in world affairs at the end of the war, and he would keep in close touch with his nation's affairs.

Kansas Schools to Have Willard Day. TOPEKA, Kan., Sept. 8.—As part of the propaganda in favor of prohibition in Kansas, Sept.-28 will be celebrated by the school children of the State as Frances Willard day. The Kansas legislature, at the request of the Kansas Women's Temperance Union, passed a law to that effect.

Every school in the State, the law provides, shall celebrate the day with appropriate historical exercises. The programs will show the benefits of prohibition and the evils of alcohol.

LAWYER DEMANDS FULL-ARMED NATION

Tells Bankers That Expression, "Too Proud to Fight," Used by President, Is Absurd.

SEATTLE, Sept. 8.—Henry D. Eastbrook, New York lawyer, principal speaker before the American Bankers' Association today, characterized President Wilson's admonition to new citizens that "there is such a thing as being too proud to fight," as being "absurd and meretricious."

The attorney was speaking on the subject of "Self Defense." He declared the European war no concern of America, except as some of the belligerents have trampled on American rights. Since this country is the best hope of humanity, he said, if we fail to safeguard it, we are traitors to our forefathers. Every dollar in the National Treasury should stand pledged to its defense, he declared, and continued:

"Weaker Than Dishwater."

"No nation threatens us in so many words, but who is oblivious to hints and intimations that speak louder than words? We boast our strength to repel attack when we know we are weaker than dishwater. While every other nation has been preparing for aggression we have not made ready even for defense. Is it not time to get ready to endure? Shall we continue to listen to a wandering Voice as imbeciles as our condition? When this Voice was recently removed from the estimable but ineffective Government we thought, good easy souls, we had gotten rid of it, and were about to cry, 'We are safe.' We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have, as it were, brought forth a child, and it is a child. We are so good a product in the past we can afford to trust him for the future? Personally I have never believed in Mr. Bryan's wisdom, and I grant him utterly only because the point is not worth arguing."

"And yet I would heartily advocate Mr. Bryan's policy of non-resistance rather than a policy of half-preparedness. I had rather scrap every gun and warship we own if we are not to add to them."

"To say that we are too big or too proud to fight in self-defense is, with all respect to the estimable but ineffective gentleman who said it, absurd and foolish. To say that a mob of a million or so of untrained men are a better equipped soldiery of Asia or of Europe is worse than the statement that we are stupid. The machinations against this government at the moment are more subterranean than submarine. Our duty is to defend ourselves, and we are permitted no alternative. We must forthwith spend money for defense, and lots of it. We must be ready to defend ourselves even from the temptation of attack. Our peace and future happiness depend upon this assurance."

Experts Should Decide Policy.

A free people, says Washington, should be allowed to decide according to some well-adjusted plan. Whose plan? I should say that the recommendations in the first instance should come from our military experts, and that in the second instance the recommendations of the military experts should be adopted without much debate and regardless of cost, with the understanding, however, that the Government must ultimately be not conquered, but self-defense. This simplifies and limits the problem as well as the expenditure of money. It is a big war—as big as any navy in the world—with every flying, diving, amphibious, or land-based machine on its effectiveness, and with all the munitions and means to boot—munitions for a year's campaign at least always in the hands of the Government.

"It means as many naval officers and men as may be necessary easily to operate the machinery of the Government. And inasmuch as most of the machinery will be complicated and scientific, the Government must have brains and technical training. But this sort of men can at all times lucrative employment in private life, which means that the Government must subsidize the market for their services. Insurance will cost money, but it is worth the price."

Mr. Eastbrook also discussed a merchant marine as an auxiliary to the navy, and said the La Jolla depot, which he visited, was a model of a merchant marine.

Governor Lister and Mayor Gill helped welcome the distinguished bankers at the first general session of the convention today.

United States, Banker Says, Will Gain Through War, in Financial Power

SEATTLE, Sept. 8.—Predicting that the financial position of the United States will strengthen as the war progresses, and that President Wilson will successfully preserve neutrality, William A. Law, president of the American Bankers' Association in an address before that organization today, expressed the opinion that this country would be rich enough to buy the world's raw materials, not only to help the needy nations, and give employment to masses of idle men, but also to compete vigorously with other nations in seeking foreign trade.

Commenting on general conditions in the country, Mr. Law said that, as a whole, the Government was doing increasingly; unemployment slowly and steadily decreasing, and distribution quietly broadening. He said that the V. A. Lerner presented the report of the methods and systems committee of the saving society, showing that under the direction of the association, 1,925 school savings banks, with a total deposit of \$1,250,000, had been established in the public schools of the country.

NO, MR. BRYAN ISN'T DISTRICT'S GOVERNOR

But Applicant For Citizenship Papers Thought Former Premier Was Man On Job.

Examination of candidates for citizenship often develops wild hallucinations, but yesterday one of them ventured the guess that William Jennings Bryan was "governor of the District of Columbia."

It all came about when the examiner asked a one-eyed supporter of the Kaiser who actually was at the head of the District government.

Mr. William Jennings Bryan, loudly declared the applicant.

Justice Siddons, presiding in the District Supreme Court, gave the would-be American or German-American, another month to find out about it. The court had no sooner resumed its calm when another bidder for citizenship asked that the District Commissioners were appointed by the President, and "approved by the United States Senate."

The presiding judge thought this was also inexcusable ignorance, and gave the sponsor for the guess a month to study further on the subject.